



Artist Dick Tuinder returns to Aruba to indulge in some Waltaka at the Sinfa Gallery

Dutch artist Dick Tuinder has returned to Aruba to again startle and shake up the population out of their complacency and to subtly exhort us into taking notice of what is really happening in the world around us. His unique artistry combines humor and social commentary that requires one to face what may for many be uncomfortable observations, but truth, nonetheless. Such is the creativity and message of this accomplished artist who will be opening at the SINFA Gallery in San Nicolas on Friday, July 7 at 8:00 P.M. His choice of the name “Waltaka” is quite apropos, as it is derived from Surinamese, and has come to signify in Aruba “Graffiti.” As his illustrations resemble and adorn the walls and windows of the SINFA gallery like graffiti, they also contain the social protest or pointed comments on life as real life graffiti often does.

Dick Tuinder’s imagination is innovative, directed towards the use of more modern media, such as film, to catch his audience’s attention. He creates not only visually but also verbally and musically, enjoying the look and play of musical notes on a page, the actual sounds that they produce being of little importance. Dick is not a man that paints “pretty pictures,” but his work is intriguing, insightful, and very likely at times, at least to some, infuriating.

“(A note on modern physics) -Analyzing God’s mind from the creative point of view we cannot but assume that there must be trillions of universes. I mean, would you, being gifted with His talents, end your creative career after your first universe? It is more than likely that ours is just a rough sketch for zillions of other more successful creations. One thing’s for sure though: we are not alone.” So reads a postscript from a letter to fellow artist and friend Ari Kaganof, to be found on Dick’s website, www.dicktuinder.com. Dick and Ari combined their talents with other artists for an exhibition that shocked Holland, but also enlightened them with its talent and creativity, and which Dick entertainingly documented on film.

A thread of irony often works its way through his stories and illustrations, but also a whimsical optimism, as expressed by his creation Sally de Winter, an innocent little girl that often astounds with her comments. These comments of course are the observations of a forty-two year old man, but they still seem appropriate coming from the lips of a beautiful blond child, perhaps even carrying more weight because of it. Dick speaks through many different characters, and he has published a book with poems by Willem Halbertsma, and Ramon de Santos, who also writes music. All these characters have complex histories and lives and are constructs of Dick Tuinder, who appears to turn Multiple Personality Disorder into high art.

Dick gave THE NEWS a little preview of what will be at the SINFA Gallery and it is worth the trip to the Sunrise City to experience his astute observations of Aruban life, which he finds delightful and quite multi-faceted. There will be live music and food available, and a performance by Wilfred Jansen and other fine poets of Aruba. If one enjoys art that is unusual and intellectually stimulating, this is an event that should not be missed, as it will surely be a rare and eye-opening experience.